

NEWS RELEASE



OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

San Diego, California

***United States Attorney
Carol C. Lam***

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For Immediate Release

NEWS RELEASE SUMMARY - February 9, 2007

United States Attorney Carol C. Lam announced today that a federal jury sitting in San Diego found Yssouf Diabate guilty of one count of Attempted Export of Defense Articles Without a License, in violation of the Arms Export Control Act, and one count of Smuggling Goods from the United States.

According to Assistant United States Attorneys William Cole and John Parmley, who prosecuted the case, the evidence at trial established that Diabate attempted to illegally export 38 semi-automatic firearms and numerous high-capacity magazines to the Ivory Coast, a nation which is currently the subject of a comprehensive arms embargo imposed by the United Nations Security Council. The evidence at trial established that Diabate broke the firearms down into parts, concealed most of the parts inside a large video monitor and then tried to ship the monitor through UPS with a false shipping invoice. Unbeknownst to Diabate, he had purchased the firearms from an undercover agent of the Department of Homeland Security, Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

United States Attorney Lam said, "By trying to smuggle guns to the Ivory Coast, Diabate showed he was willing to potentially escalate violence in a country already plagued by civil unrest."

Diabate is scheduled to appear for sentencing before United States District Judge Larry A. Burns on May 7, 2007, at 9:30 a.m.

DEFENDANT

Criminal Case No. 06 CR 2161-LAB

Yssouf Diabate

SUMMARY OF CHARGES

Title 22, United States Code, Section 2778(b)(2) and (c) - Attempted Export of Defense Articles Without a License; Maximum penalties: 10 years in prison and a \$1,000,000 fine.

Title 18, United States Code, Section 554 - Smuggling Goods from the United States
Maximum penalties: 10 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine.

PARTICIPATING AGENCIES

Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Department of Homeland Security
Defense Criminal Investigative Service, Department of Defense